to attend office at 7 o'clock in the morning and that they are not able to leave before 7 or 8 P. M. The pay allowed to them, compared to the other branches of the service is very low. I submit that their pay is entitled to an early revision.

HEAD IX (B)

THE JAILS.

This institution during the last 5 years has cost the State amounts varying between Rs. 70,000 to Rs. one lakh. The receipts from the Department have varied between Rs. 9,000 and Rs. 12,000. I do not mean that the jails should be thought of as a source of revenue to the State. But attempts should be made to make it at least self-supporting. The industrial side of the Department could be developed on a larger scale which while adding to the receipts, will enable Government to send out the inmates of the jail as a better type of people. Not only would they not give further trouble to the society, but they would be in a position to add to the wealth of the country. The jail manufactures ought to be expanded considerably so that the income derived therefrom may pay for the upkeep of the jail.

HEAD XI.

STATIONERY.

The expenditure on this head is mentioned as Rs. 2,05,800. The system of giving contract for stationery to foreign firms should be abolished. I know that there are people in Travancore, who are willing, to take up the work and in addition, give security for the proper discharge of their responsibility.

HEAD XVI.

EDUCATION.

The contribution towards education should be substantially increased. The grant towards this Department for the next year is Rs. 29,60,000, while the Government hope to realise Rs. 5,90,000. The net cost will then be only Rs. 23 and odd lakhs. In spite of the proudly proclaimed educational advancement, the percentage of literacy is still low. In the matter of primary or elementary education, the policy of Government for the last few years, has been to induce people to put up buildings and to furnish the same and for Government to appoint teachers. Of late, this practice has been extended to High School or Secondary education also. The cost of books to be purchased by a lad learning in Classes I to IV of a Vernacular School at the present day is several times what it was formerly. A Text Book Committee which has not so much feelings for the condition of the ryot as for patronage to their votaries comes out with a long string of books and the poor ryot who is not able to make a living out of his slender income has to pay for these books. Under these conditions, to speak of elementary education being made free in the country is a farce and a mockery. Another object for which I would recommend large grants is a system of scholarships. Young men of parts should be sent to Europe and America for higher studies in Sciences and Arts so that a few years hence we shall have plenty of men in our country to take up their place as professors in all the important subjects. Professors of the type of a Rangaswamy Aiyangar or Ramanathan are rare even in British India and it will be more difficult still to get them to go over here. In the interests of higher education, a scheme should be formulated with as little delay as possible; so that an efficient educational service for the future may be provided. Funds should also be allotted to institute chairs for the teaching of Natural Sciences and Philosophy, in the Arts College and to improve all round the existing branches of studies.

HEAD XVII.

AGRICULTURE.

The allotment to this Department is insufficient. Nearly 66 per cent. of the people depend on agriculture for their living. Expansion of agriculture, both extensively and intensively, should be made. The G. O. dated 12th June 1920 regarding this question, is unsatisfactory. The experiment of intensive cultivation of *punja* lands has proved successful and hence a bolder scheme of reform should be undertaken at an early date. Owners of all lands (*punja*) which are now cultivated only once in two years should be encouraged, by a system of loans, to cultivate them every year. Similarly, all available lands in and around forests should be thrown open for paddy cultivation. In both these ways the output of paddy every year should be increased several fold. During the last 5 years the value of rice and paddy imported into Travancore has varied between Rs. one crore and seventy lakhs and Rs. one crore and eighty-four lakhs which shows that the country is greatly dependent on foreign supply for its food. The position of the average ryot in Travancore cannot be more effectively described than

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in the words of the late Dewan Bahadur Nagamiah. In his State Manual, he says "For one reason or another, the ryot is obliged to borrow, a necessity which even the best of them cannot avoid; and the cultivator when he looks into his accounts will find that he has not a balance of even one sixteenth of a measure of paddy to his credit". This type of ryot has to feed and clothe a family and to provide for the education of his children, and pay the doctor, in case of illness. The ryot, therefore, stands in need of every support that the Government can give. I would appeal to you, sir, to go into the interior of the country and satisfy yourself whether Nagamiah's words uttered 14 years ago, are not true to this day. You should try to see the average ryot, at his daily work, an individual under-fed, and clothed in rags. The usual concourse of the better class of people, well fed and well clad who are arranged to meet the Dewan in his tours will never convey an adequate conception of the poverty of the people. I would therefore submit with all earnestness I can command, that a committee of officials and non-officials should soon be appointed to consider the question of increasing the food supply in the country. The G. O. I referred to above simply accepts the opinion of the Conservator that no more lands could be disafforested without prejudice to the Forests. With great deference, I would submit that this should not be accepted as the last word on the subject.

HEAD XVII B (*m*).

The Department of Industries.

The allotment to this Department is very meagre. The amount allowed is Rs. 56,300. Of this, nearly Rs. 22,000 come in for establishment charges. Furniture and office contingencies come to Rs. 8,000 nearly. There remain only Rs. 26,000 for capital investment on Industries, including a sum of Rs. 9,000, earmarked for scholarships and stipends. This shows that the Department, under existing conditions, is a mere show. Funds ought to be provided for Industrial Exhibitions every year and for prizes to be given at such exhibitions. State aid should be given for main and useful industries. The raw materials of the country should be utilized to enhance the wealth of the country. Tanning industry is full of possibilities in Travancore. Hides worth between 2 and 3 lakhs of rupees are exported from the country. These exports do not appear to bring in any considerable revenue. If action is taken on the lines of what is done by the Cochin Darbar, the industrial extension can be assured. The sum of Rs. 9,000 sanctioned for scholarships is too small. There should be for this purpose a sum which will enable at least half a dozen students receiving training in industrial centres of Europe, America and Japan, so that when they come back the work of starting new industries and improving existing ones may be taken up. Sufficient funds should be set apart. In the matter of selecting two members for further studies in medicine giving them full pay and promotion over the head of their compeers, Government are incurring an expenditure. What I humbly submit is that this money could well have been utilised in developing industry in Travancore. For, I understand that there are people in the Medical Department who are not inferior to those now sent out and who are willing to spend their own money for further studies in medicine. These are matters, small though they be, which sometimes show that the care that is expected of Government in regard to matters of detail is not shown by them.

The Medical and Ayurveda Departments.

A much larger amount than what the Budget allows should be found for the Medical Department. Particularly in surgery, there has been a revolution, after the War. Up to date methods of surgical aid should be provided to the people and larger funds are necessary. Similarly for Ayurveda, the budget grant is quite small. I would suggest a scheme of licensing the Ayurvedic practitioners and vendors of medicinal herbs and plants, etc. The fees obtained by this system may be utilised for improving the work of this Department.

HEAD No. XVII.

Public Works.

I do not think I ought to take much time. Messrs. Krishna Aiyangar and Parameswaran Pillai have spoken elaborately on the subject. I would only place before the Council one or two features.

The outstanding feature of the Budget of this Department is the cost of establishment. The amount sanctioned for this Department is Rs. 28 and odd lakhs. On account of original works and repairs or maintenance, Rs. 23 lakhs is set apart. Establishment charges come to nearly Rs. 5½ lakhs. Thus to execute a work which costs Rs. 4 and odd, the establishment charges come to one rupee. This certainly is too much. Important works of public utility are postponed for want of funds.

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